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LEDBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

INTERIM



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1944.

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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

WILLIAM HOGG, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.R.S.I.

Clerical Staff:

+ O.N. LITTLE. + J.M. DEKINS. (Resigned 9.12.44.)
+ P.M. RUDHALL. (Appointed 11.12.44.)
(+ Temporary Appointments.)

County Offices,
Alton Street,
Ross-on-Wye.
Telephone - Ross 214.

Sanitary Inspector, Sanitary Surveyor & Housing
Designated Officer:

W. PARKS, M.INST.M.& CY.E., M.R.S.I.

Council Offices,
Worcester Road,
Ledbury.
Telephone - Ledbury 5.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1944. In this fifth year of war, the health of the population of your District remained remarkably good and with the exception of measles, the incidence of infectious disease was insignificant.

In spite of the fact that the year was one of relatively low rainfall, the town experienced little inconvenience through shortage of water. This shows that the measures taken by the Council to augment the supply have not been without some measure of success.

In spite of numerous wartime difficulties, the Department was able to meet all the demands made upon it requiring immediate attention. Some of the larger requirements have been carried forward as far as circumstances would permit.

I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the support which the Council has always given me in the discharge of my duties. Also I have to acknowledge the assistance which has been given me in the preparation of this Report and throughout the year by my colleagues Mr. H.W. Orme, Clerk to the Council, Mr. W. Parks, Surveyor Sanitary Inspector, and Mr. A.T. Thomas, Financial Officer.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM HOGG.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:

The Urban District of Ledbury forms a small country town and a centre for the adjacent agricultural district. It lies near the south eastern boundary of the county on the approaches to the Malvern Hills.

Area (in acres)	499
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1944)	976
Rateable Value	£18284
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£72. 0. 6
Registrar General's Estimated Resident Population	3,448

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year:

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	16.5
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Births (Live & Still)	77.2
Death Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Resident Population (Crude)	13.9

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births.
Heading No.29 Puerperal Sepsis	NIL.	NIL.
Heading No.30 Other Puerperal Causes	NIL.	NIL.

Date Rate of Infants Under One Year of Age:

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	35.0
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	40.8
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	NIL

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA:Laboratory Facilities:-

The Public Health Laboratory at the County Offices, Hereford, now forming part of the E.M.S. Public Health Laboratory Service under the direction of Dr. R. Ewart Jones, continued to provide clinical laboratory facilities.

The following table shows the work carried out at the Laboratory at the request of the Department.

Water - Bacteriological Examination	...	2
Swabs	...	15
Sputum	...	2

Hospital Facilities:-

The Ledbury Cottage Hospital, is a voluntary hospital with X-ray apparatus and surgical theatre, and it provides accommodation for medical and surgical cases.

Infectious diseases can be treated at the Hereford Rural District Council's Stretton Sugwas Hospital under the Council's Scheme.

Ambulance Facilities:-

A voluntary ambulance is stationed in the town and is available to the inhabitants as required.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA:Water:-

The town is supplied chiefly by means of the Council's piped supply, although there are still over 100 shallow wells in use in addition. Immediately before the outbreak of war a survey of these wells was completed and showed that in many instances the water was not fit for potable purposes. This is a matter which the Council will wish to deal with when circumstances permit.

The Council's mains are divided into two systems, the high pressure system supplying the higher part of the town and the low pressure system which supplies the remainder, but there are facilities for connecting the high pressure to the low pressure system.

The water supplied by the Local Authority is derived chiefly from the Conygree Reservoir (100,000 gallons capacity) which is fed from springs originating in the Wenlock Limestone in Conygree Wood. These springs appear to be somewhat shallow and the yield is subject to variation with the rainfall. This portion of the supply is fed to the mains by gravitation from the reservoir and no pumping plant is required but a chlorination plant is fitted and all water treated before passing into the mains.

The high pressure system depends upon the reservoir (75,000 gallon) situated at Cross Hands and which is fed by pumping water from Massington Wells situated in a depression in Eastnor Parish. An automatic chlorinator is driven from the crankshaft of the pumps.

As the existing sources of supply had been for some time inadequate for the needs of the District, the Council in 1942 was able to arrange with the Malvern Urban District Council for a supply from the Bromsgrove pumping station of that Authority. This supply is brought from Hollybush by a 3" main through the Parish of Eastnor to the H.P. reservoir.

Chlorination of the Council's supplies has been continuous since 1942 and has resulted in the water being rendered sterile as shown on bacteriological examination. Samples are examined from time to time of the chlorinated water but owing to engineering circumstances it is not possible to sample water before chlorination except at the Massington Wells. However, previous to the installation of chlorination, tests showed that the untreated water did give a small bacterial count.

In the year under review, the Malvern main was extended to Upperfields with the purpose of improving pressure in the higher portion of the town, and it can now be stated that the piped supply is adequate in quantity and quality in all parts of the District.

The total number of houses supplied from the Council's mains is 638 but this includes 72 dwellings which are supplied from 21 stand pipes. Speaking generally, water is supplied for domestic purposes by meter with a minimum charge operating. The average daily consumption of water during the year was 63,700 gallons for all purposes which gives an average daily consumption per head of the estimated population of 18.5 gallons.

The Council's water has no appreciable action upon lead. No samples were taken for chemical examination but two samples were sent for bacteriological examination, one from the high pressure system and one from the low pressure system. Both samples failed to show any growth but were as already stated samples of the chlorinated water.

Drainage and Sewerage:

There have been no important extensions of the sewers during the year.

Public Cleansing:

Public cleansing and collection of salvage continues to be carried out satisfactorily, motor transport having been adopted to replace horse drawn vehicles.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area:

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	1
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	4
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	5
Housing and Nuisances	...	...	...	...	124
Housing Consolidated Regulations 1923					-
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	2
Factories with Mechanical Power	...	...	...	...	39
Factories without Mechanical Power	...	...	...	...	11
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	27
Total					213

Notices Issued:-

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	27
Statutory re Housing	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Statutory under Other Acts	2

Summary of Defects Remedied:-

Housing Defects Remedied	81
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Disinfection re Infectious Disease:-

Number of Disinfections	3
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SECTION D. - HOUSING:

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year:-

Total number of Dwelling Houses Inspected for Housing Defects (Under P.H. or Housing Acts) 29

Number of Inspections made for the purpose 34

Number of Dwelling Houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation 14

Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notice:-

Number of Defective Dwelling Houses Rendered Fit in consequence of Informal Action by the Local Authority of their Officers ... 14

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD:

Milk Supply:-

There are no Registered Producers of milk in the Area and consequently no inspections of farms or dairies were made.

Eight retailers are registered. No samples were taken for bacteriological examination during the year.

Meat and Other Foods:-

It has not been possible to carry out a complete inspection of meat etc. exposed for sale in the District, but a certain amount of this work has been carried out, chiefly in respect of canned foods.

SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE:

The incidence of notifiable disease during the year showed a decline when compared with the year 1943. The total number of notifications received was 45 and 41 of these were in respect of measles which was prevalent during the first and last quarters of the year. Most of the patients were children aged between 5 and 15 years and only one case occurred in a child under 2 years of age. There were no deaths.

Only one case of diphtheria was notified in an immunised child and was insignificant.

The following tables showing the incidence of notifiable disease are submitted:-

Notifiable Disease during Year 1944.

Disease	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Whooping Cough	1	NIL	NIL
Measles	41	1	NIL
Scarlet Fever	1	1	NIL
Diphtheria	1	NIL	NIL
Pneumonia	1	1	1

Analysis of Total Notified Cases According to Age.

Scabies:-

No cases of scabies have been brought to my notice during the year, but this does not necessarily mean that the disease did not occur. Notification is not compulsory and I find it difficult to accept that the disease was entirely absent under the prevailing conditions.

Diphtheria Immunisation:-

This work was continued throughout the year by the Department and by the medical practitioners. The assistance which the Council receives from the practitioners in this respect is very considerable and I feel that the Council would wish me to formally acknowledge this co-operation. It is a fact that cannot be overlooked that the family doctor is able to get children immunised at an early age, and this is very necessary if full protection against diphtheria is to be obtained.

The results for the year are contained in the following table:-

Age Group	1 - 5 Years.	5 - 15 Years.	1 - 15 Years.
Prophylactic	A.P.T.	A.P.T.T.A.F.	Totals.
Children			
Immunised	73	18	91

No post Schick Testing was carried out as this is not possible under present conditions.

Tuberculosis:-

At the end of 1943 there were 24 cases of tuberculosis on the register, 20 pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary. During 1944, 8 cases were added to the register, 7 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary. Five cases were removed from the register, 3 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary and on the 31st. December 1944 27 cases remained on the register, 24 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary.

Causes of Death	Number of Deaths.	Death Rate per 1000 Resident Population.
Cancers	6	1.7
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	10	2.9
Heart Disease	13	3.8
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	0.3
Bronchitis	3	0.9
Pneumonia	2	0.6
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	0.3
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	NIL	NIL
Other Digestive Diseases	1	0.3
Nephritis	1	0.3
Premature Birth	1	0.3
Violence	2	0.6
All Other Causes	7	2.0
Total Deaths	48	13.9

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